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the martlet

may 20th, 1999 — flying without feet for 51 years — volume 52, issue 1

Summer in Victoria!

Something to look forward to:

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¥ June 24
¥ July 22
¥ August 19
¥ August 26

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- Sink your teeth into genetically altered food on 3
- Berning Bright on 6
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The ones that got away

Photo by John Volpe
One of the Atlantic salmon John Volpe found in the Tsitika River

Why are a handful of young Atlantic salmon causing so much controversy?

BY PATTI EDGAR

For a handful of young salmon, it was the perfect place to grow up. Clean, clear river water, plenty of insect larvae to eat, and some small, shady pools to hide in.

The only problem was, they were living on the wrong side of Canada. And that little mistake meant these 12 Atlantic salmon juveniles ended up on the dissecting table in a British Columbia laboratory last September, rather than on a migratory route to the wide-open ocean.

Biologists believe they were the offspring of two, or possibly four, Atlantic salmon that had escaped from one of about a dozen salmon farms along the coast. It is a first for British Columbia, although biologists spent two decades trying to introduce the species in the early part of the century, no Atlantic salmon have ever spawned in provincial waters.

To environmentalists, the salmon escapees are proof the farming of Atlantic salmon on B.C.'s coast has to be curtailed or escaped salmon could one day take precious habitat and food away from dwindling Pacific stocks. To fish farmers, they were a headache. Just as the provincial government was deliberating on whether or not they would lift the now four-year-old moratorium on fish farming, industry representatives said a handful of fish sparked unnecessary public outcry, maybe causing the government to put off the long-awaited announcement.

A team of B.C. environment ministry biologists first discovered the fish while combing the Tsitika River, on northern Vancouver Island, for Steelhead on Aug. 6, last year. Their initial response was surprise, this was a species of fish the biologists had never come across before. So they called University of Victoria doctorate candidate John Volpe, a biologist who had been searching for Atlantic fish in Pacific rivers for the past three years under the ministry's Atlantic Salmon Juvenile Monitoring Program.

Finding Atlantic salmon in B.C. waters wasn't anything new for Volpe. Every year 47,000 fish escape from B.C.'s 79 fish farms, and 80 per cent are Atlantic salmon, which are more popular with farmers because they fetch a larger price than Pacific stocks and survive better in pens. But these fish were different. Finding juvenile Atlantic salmon is a rare thing, and if they are in B.C. waters, they are usually escapees from hatcheries. But Volpe suspected these fish were spawned right in the river, making them unique. His suspicion was based first on the theory that, given the huge number of fish escaping from Atlantic salmon farms, some had to be procreating, and secondly on the fact that he had played God earlier that year and really made it happen. At the Little Qualicum Salmon Facility, Volpe observed six Atlantic females successfully spawning in an artificial stream he had created.

When Volpe arrived at the Tsitika River on Aug. 18 he snorkeled up and down the section of the river where the Atlantics had been spotted and counted 40 Atlantic salmon juveniles, although he admits he may have counted some more than once. He captured four, approximately 7 km from the tide line, and took them to the University of British Columbia for analysis. Nearly a month later, a team of 11 ministry staff and contractors, as well as an industry representative, descended on the Tsitika River with masks and snorkels. The biologists covered the lower 17 kilometers of the river in teams of three and counted eight fish in eight cold, wet hours. The team went back the next day and electro-shocked the pool of water where they had seen the most Atlantics. Eight juveniles floated to the top and were sent to a government lab. Biologist looked at the ear bones of the fish, which have rings like the growth rings on trees, to prove that they had spent their lifetime in the river water, not in a hatchery.

After two months of poking and prodding at these 12 little fish, biologists, environmentalists, and fish farmers can't agree on how significant they are.

Volpe is determined these Atlantics are the real thing, and that they prove allowing an exotic species to escape into B.C. waters is a threat to wild stocks, especially to Steelhead, a popular but vanishing sport fishing prize, which thrives on the same food and habitat as Atlantic salmon.

"Is this a one-off event? Probably not. There are tens of thousands of miles of river and I'm the only one looking [for Atlantic salmon]," said Volpe. "Every time a salmon escapes from a farm you are rolling a dice to see if the salmon will find a mate and spawn."

Critics argue that Atlantics simply can't survive in B.C. waters. They point to two decades in the early part of this century when biologists purposely tried to introduce millions of young Atlantic salmon into B.C. waters and watched them all die. But Volpe says things have changed a lot since the 1920s.

"The ecological habitat is crumbling. Species, both predator and competitor, are at an all-time low. And we're consistently introducing high numbers of healthy adults into the environment."

His views are echoed by the David Suzuki Foundation, which released a report in 1996 calling for a ban on open-net fish farming. Almost all of B.C. salmon farms use open nets, literally netting placed in the ocean to create pens that can hold tens of thousands of salmon. It can be torn open by anything from seals trying to get at an easy food source to salmon farm boats making an awkward turn.

The foundation's communications director David Hocking said closed-pens, which are made with non-permeable materials and are pumped full of water that is treated once it is pumped back out, cut the number of escapees to zero and prevent other problems he sees with fish farms such as pollution in the ocean floor from fish waste and the exchange of disease between wild and farmed salmon. He compares closed pens to a cow feed lot.

"You don't have escaped cows inhabiting wild cow habitat," he jokes.

Good analogy, says biologist Bill Harrower of the provincial fishery ministry's Seafood Industry Development Branch in Courtenay.

Atlantic salmon are as docile and weak as cows, and even if they can spawn in B.C. waters, their offspring simply won't survive, he says. Harrower was one of the biologists who dragged themselves along the shallow waters of the river with snorkel gear looking for the Atlantics on the Tsitika. He points out that in an area where his group found five of the fish, there were 137 Steelhead juveniles.

His views go against the ministry of environment's report on the Tsitika fish, released in December, which said the species poses a threat to the native fish populations in the river as long as adult Atlantics continue to escape from fish farms, especially now that Steelhead stocks on Vancouver Island are low in numbers. Harrower said there are flaws in the methodology of the report. For example, he said, the report doesn't look at what is different about the stretch of river the Atlantics were found in.

"There may be some unusual features of that section of the Tsitika which explain the presence of the fish, as juveniles have not been found in other rivers, even where Atlantic salmon were suspected to have spawned."

The Atlantics discovered in the Tsitika river were spawned in two different years: 1998 and 1997. Their parents may have escaped from fish farms like those of Omega Salmon Group Ltd., which owns 19 fish farms on Vancouver Island, as well as two hatcheries. At most of the farms on the northern end of the Island a handful of net pens appear only a few feet out of the water and are accessible by a maze of raised walkways. Once a week, a boat tows a net cage to a processing plant in Hardy Bay, where the fish are gutted and then shipped to Washington State within 48 hours. The fish are then sold to restaurants in the U.S. or Japan.

Darin Padlewski, the company's representative at the Tsitika River search in September, said the Tsitika fish are an anomaly. He is against closed-net pens, because of the higher costs of running such a system, and argues that salmon farmers have already cut down the number of escapees substantially, and will continue to do so, through tougher self-regulations, such as putting guards on boat motors and netting under fish inspection tables.

"The industry has the same goals as everyone else. We don't want any escapees because we make money off of our fish. We don't want to pollute our waters because we raise our fish in them. It's like a fish tank in your home. The fish are living in an environment and we want to take care of that environment."

Padlewski is supported by statistics showing the industry has reduced escapees from a high of 390,000 in 1989 to the current 47,000 a year. He also has a special report by the provincial environmental assessment office to back him up. The 1997 report said Atlantic salmon pose a minimal threat to B.C. stocks and preventive measures, new technologies and fish-recovery plans could reduce the number of escapees to closer to zero.

Padlewski called for controlled expansion of the multi-million dollar industry, and said his company, already with 500 employees in high-unemployment coastal towns, is in a great position to expand.

Whether the moratorium will be lifted has yet to be decided. However, in September, the discovery of the Tsitika Atlantics prompted B.C. fisheries minister Dennis Streifel to promise to adopt the recommendations of the environmental assessment office and move towards zero escapees within two years. He said the government would also support commercial production trials of all-female Atlantic salmon, and plans to make all-females the industry norm if the trials succeed.

The promises, however, hold little water for biologist Volpe and environmentalist Hocking, who fear industry expansion could spell disaster for the West Coast if monitoring programs aren't well-funded or all-female Atlantics meet up with male escapees from Washington state.

"The data we collected last year shows [Atlantic salmon in the Tsitika] are very capable of surviving," said Volpe, pointing out that the one-year old Atlantics were already two times bigger than the Steelhead of the same age.

"We can't have an industry that hurts the environment," said Hocking, "They are just putting the environmental costs on a tab for the public."

Meanwhile, Volpe, ministry biologists, industry representatives and environmentalists are keeping their eyes on the Tsitika River. Whether any remaining juvenile Atlantic salmon can complete their life cycle by migrating to the ocean and returning to the river to spawn as adults has yet to be seen. But in the depths of the Tsitika river lurk at least three full-grown salmon, probably escapees, who might just be capable of spawning this year. And while fishermen have reeled in Atlantics from Vancouver Island rivers in the past, even experienced anglers recruited by the ministries weren't able to trick these big fish into leaving behind the clean, clear river water.

Gentically altered foods topic of hot debate

BY SANDRA DYER

Do you really know what you are consuming when you are eating fresh vegetables from the local supermarket? Not necessarily. Citizen concern is increasing as consumers say they can no longer be certain that the food they are buying is safe, because genetically altered food is not labeled or adequately tested.

Although the movement against genetically altered food is growing, activists warn that their voices aren't being heard by the federal government, who has the power through Health Canada to ban or label these products. And companies like Procter and Gamble, which have invented a fat replacement containing molecules too large to be digestible called Olestra, or Monsanto, which invented the Bovine Growth Hormone, (rBGH) that increases milk production, are putting the pressure on Health Canada to get their products approved.

One of the newest voices to the debate is the British Columbia government. A communications officer for B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food says that their stance on gentically engineered food is to "recognize that citizens are concerned." As bio-engineered food approval falls under federal jurisdiction, the provincial government relies on the federal government to ensure the safety of food. Once Health Canada deems that a product is safe, it is available across Canada.

But don't rely on Health Canada to ban all genetically modified food, warns Derrick Mallard, president of the Sooke based Citizens' Action to Save the Environment Society. Health Canada, which has approved hormone-treated beef, is a federal department. "The problem," said Mallard, "is that in our federal system they [Health Canada] can make these decisions without provincial approval."

The Citizens' Action to Save the Environment has been lobbying the federal government to require genetically modified food be labeled, but would like to see such products banned altogether. It supports the provincial government's attitude against genetically altered food and hopes B.C. could "set an example for the rest of Canada." When Monsanto tried to introduce the Bovine Growth Hormone into Canada "the provincial government raised a bit of a cry over it," Mallard said.

Organic produce is an alternative to buying bio-engineered food. However, Mallard says that organic farms are very small and are not likely to be a viable alternative. Because most are only two to four acres in size, organic farms would not be able to produce enough food to satisfy the whole population.

Capers Community Markets sells local produce and most food they sell is organic.

"The focus in this industry is to get out information to the public," said Elaine Codling of Capers. She observes that more people are buying food that not only contains few additives, but is organic. However, she said, "it is hard to get organically produced food."

One solution to the problem of gentically altered food, said Mallard, is for the United Nations to invoke the International Precautionary Principle.

"This principle of international law says that if there is any doubt, as there is much uncertainty with respect to genetically altered food, precautions must be taken," said Mallard. "This would require companies to stop genetically altering their products. There are some large food companies who have decided to get out of bio-engineered food."

He points out that trade agreements, such as those under the World Trade Organization of which Canada is a member, make it more difficult to refuse approval of genetically altered food as rules do not permit governments to make decisions based on unscientific evidence.

However, Mallard said many doctors and scientists are warning against gentically altered food because the effects on humans over a long period of time have never been measured. This is all the more reason to withhold approval of bio-engineered food, according to Mallard.

"We are a bunch of guinea pigs."

Margeret Harris, a nutritionist at Health Works Integrated Medical Centres, stresses that she has "deep concerns as bio-engineered food is just not natural."

She fears that our bodies may not be able to digest such food properly. Food is often altered to increase its shelf life, however, she said "you don't want to eat anything that doesn't rot, because if nature can't break it down, your digestive system can't."

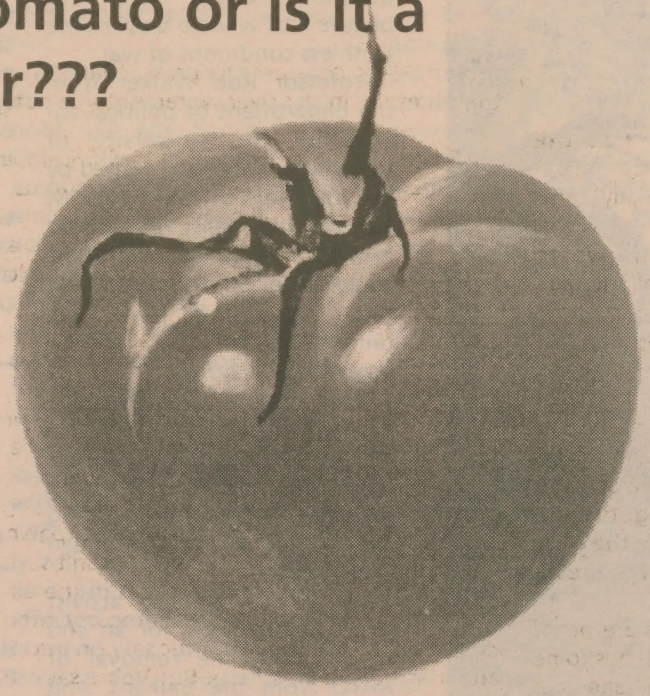
She belittles claims of companies that bio-engineered food can increase food production and solve food shortage problems, saying that "it is being done for a profit margin."

To find out more information about alternatives buying practices contact:

SHARE Organics 595-6742
Lifecycles lifecycles@coastnet.com
VIPIRG 721-7285
Amaranth 472-4386 (Sept-April)
Citizens' Action to Save the Environment Society

Or contact the Edmonds Institute at beb@igc.org to learn more about the negative aspects of genetically altered foods.

is it a tomato or is it a flounder???



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Local anti-war campaign continues to strengthen

Protesters at the Earth Day March

Martlet photo by Rachel FKiers

BY MIGUEL STROTHER

As continued and conflicting reports on the state of affairs in the former Yugoslavia filter through the muddy world of the media, people from our own corner of the world have begun to challenge Canada's role in NATO bombing, raising questions about what to believe and who to trust in the truthless conditions of war.

Professor Rob Walker from the department of political science at the University of Victoria says the war, waged by the members of NATO against populist nationalist Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic, could rage on for years and calls the events that have unraveled in the former Yugoslavia "madness."

When questioned about the economic interests of NATO in the former Yugoslavia Walker explained, "(NATO's) economic interests lay only in defining the outside to the European Community."

Ben Isitt, a socialist activist from Victoria, calls for an end to the war, the removal of NATO from the Balkans, and the removal of Canada from NATO.

In a recent speech he gave to a group of concerned students, Isitt questioned the motivations of NATO and its right arm, the United States of America. He said that the reasons behind the war are not motivated by a desire on the part of the NATO allies to champion human rights, but are rather a result of American fears about a slow down in the world economy.

Isitt explained that when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank don't get their way, as was the case when Slobodan Milosevic failed to sign the Rambouillet agreement in France, the capitalist system, so integral to the economy of the United States, is put in jeopardy.

"It is time that we all meet together on the streets, despite our differing ideologies, and attempt to combat the atrocities of this war," said Isitt.

Keith Martin, Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca Reform Member of Parliment, claimed the IMF and World Bank could be the most effective tools in putting a stop to the crisis in Kosovo.

"Both those groups (The IMF and World Bank) have enormously powerful economic levers to apply to any country and they must be applied to the federal republic of Yugoslavia," says Martin. "If we choke off the money supply we greatly diminish the ability of Milosevic to carry out war for any lengthy period of time."

However, Russia, a country in deep economic turmoil as a result of its defeat at the hands of the United States during the cold war, is strongly opposed to any embargo placed on Yugoslavia. Russian President Boris Yeltsin has stated any attempt to stop Russian oil shipments to Yugoslavia would be an act of war.

Brian Bradley, a concerned UVIC student and protestor of the war, claims that the war is a sign of the West's weakening position on the world political stage: "It has opened my eyes to meet the many Serbs of Victoria at the Anti-War Coalition rallies. This whipped up nationalism in the Western media is allowing NATO to do extreme damage to their homeland and in most cases they are as sympathetic to the plight of the ethnic Albanians as Westerners are. It is a tragedy for these people to watch their homeland being destroyed because of Milosevic's crimes and NATO's political agenda."

In an effort to raise awareness about events in the Balkans the Victoria Anti-War Coalition meet every Saturday at noon. Since the beginning of the war protestors, from Serbs to Anglo Saxons, have been gathering in front of the parliament buildings to outwardly oppose Canada's involvement in the war. In addition, on Tuesday nights, the Serbian community of Victoria gathers to protest the bombing of friends and loved ones.

Since the war's beginnings, signs of discontent have been scrawled in chalk across the walls of the UVic campus. However, as the days of bloody turmoil continue, these chalk slogans have begun to slowly deteriorate. Without an active, committed force in the community, interest in the war will go unnoticed and the monuments of Yugoslav history will explode, crumble and fade, lost like a television commercial among the countless channels.

"It is a tradegy for these people to watch their homeland being destroyed because of Milosevic's crimes and NATO's political agenda."

Faculty blocks sessionals union

BY MAX DEMPSTER
-with files from Patti Edgar

Sessional lecturers may have voted to create their own union at UVic, but the faculty association has prevented them from reading the ballots.

Faculty members asked the labor relations board to stop the ballot counting until after a decision is made next week on another case brought before the board by the School of Music's Lynne Greenwood that will determine if the association is a legitimate bargaining unit for UVic's professors.

If the labor relations board decides the faculty association is a union, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) drive to unionize sessionals could be considered a raid, because sessionals who work half-time or more are already members of the faculty association, says Tom Cleary, faculty association chair.

"It may be that we have already represented the sessionals for years," said Cleary, who points out that the faculty association has voted in favour of unionization and has been involved in negotiations of contracts like the tenure document with administrators for decades. "The sessionals haven't known all spring if the faculty association is an alternative to CUPE."

But sessional union organizer Michael Tripp argues the faculty association wouldn't be the best choice for sessionals.

Sessionals want their own union because the faculty association has not helped them to win equal treatment from UVic's administration, said Tripp.

"By setting us aside as a separate entity, not truly faculty, that said a lot to most sessionals about where they stood," he said, adding that although sessionals with more than half-time employment are allowed into the faculty association, the majority of sessionals are employed less than half-time.

He said sessional lecturers earn 1/4 to 1/3 of the pay an average tenured professor earns, their benefits are minimal, they do not earn seniority, and they have to apply every term for more work.

Sessional lecturers' experience, educational qualifications and publications may be as good as that of tenured professors, said Tripp, but most of them simply lacked the luck to be in the right place at the right time to win tenure.

He also said that the faculty association would be the only union to have management as members, because administrators who are professors are part of the association.

Lynne Greenwood brought her case before the Labour Relations Board last October, after the university declined to uphold the recommendations of an appointed appeal panel that she be paid a higher salary. Her lawyer argues that the panel's decision is legally binding because the faculty association and administration agreed on it as the appropriate appeal process. If she wins the case, the faculty association will fall under the laws of the Labour Relations Code.

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letters

No Nukes in Nanooose

Editors:

Glen Clark has it half right, and so does David Anderson. Mr. Anderson quite reasonably objects to Mr. Clark's coupling of the seabed lease for the Nanoose torpedo and sonar testing range with the plight of B.C.'s coastal fishing communities, which are reeling under the loss of wild salmon stocks. Salmon stocks and the Nanoose base are separate and distinct issues.

Premier Clark is also demanding that any vessels that use this military range, in the heart of B.C.'s Inside Passage, come unarmed of nuclear weapons. What could be more reasonable than that? This issue is coupled at its core with the operation of the Nanoose Base.

David Anderson is 180° off mark in not supporing the fundamental safety of the population he purports to represent. The porting and transit of nuclear weapons in B.C.'s highly populated Inside Passage is an issue of the utmost importance to the people who live here. To invite such weapons into Nanoose Bay is to risk the targeting of the population, which is transited by those nuclear warships. If your ports and your cities and your territorial waters are visited by nuclear weapons carrying warships, then your population is held at ranson for targeting by terrorists, saboteurs and nuclear war real-games.

Who's looking for after the public interest here? David Anderson fights for the rights of nuclear warships. Glen Clark and his government had better show their stuff on this issue, or we could all go down with a whimper, followed by a bang.

Yours truly,
Robert Moore-Stewart

UVSS Declares Itself

Editor:

As the UVic summer semester begins, the classes get longer, the summer jobs continue to elude the majority of our members, the rain starts to subside and you guessed it the new term of office begins for the 1999-2000 Board of Directors of your Student Union. As the new Board of Directors we look forward to a new set of the Martlet staffers who begin their positions at the same time as we begin ours. We would like to offer our congratulations on the production of their first issue of the Martlet in from their new positions.

In recent year?s the Martlet staff have shown relatively little interest in reporting accurately or in depth about the UVic Students? Society?s activities on behalf of our members, the undergraduate students at UVic. We want to ensure that our members know who we are and how to contact us directly.

As of May 1, 1999 and until April 30, 2000 your Board of Directors are:

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721-8369
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finance@uvss.uvic.ca
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We have an exciting year ahead of us that will see students from coast to coast in Canada involved in the Access 2000 campaign of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). To join the campaign for a high-quality accessible post-secondary education, please visit the BC-CFS website at http://www.cfs.bc.ca/.

For more information on your students? society please visit your web page at http://www.uvss.uvic.ca/.

In Solidarity,
Morgan Stewart

Fuming over the CRD

Editors:

I have some serious concerns regarding the recent implementation of the NO-SMOKING bylaw. I feel that it is important the the CRD realize the full impact their law will have on people affected and not just one or two groups. I do not have accell to the large sums of money for propaganda advertising that the CRD does, in order to try to convince the public the big brother CRD knows what is best for people and not the adult individual. Nor do I have the funds to poll people to gaurantee the desired results. In short you can by the construction of your poll manipulate the result.

I have been in the hospitality industry serving people for 18 years. As a single mother of two for almost this entire time this is how I have earned my living in order to support my family. I support my family without asking for any government assistance, I will not ask the system to support my family, they are my responsibility. This was my choice as a responsible adult.

In the past 12 weeks the restaurant I work at has seen a drop in terms not only of the numbers of people but of money spent in the restaurant of almost 20%. This will result in a huge loss of income for my family. I'm afraid that I am on my way to being made into a burden on the government rather than a contributor.

Victoria is home to a number of restaurants, lounges, pubs, old age homes. The CRD has published no accounting of the economic and personal impact their actions will have on the employees of any of these business owners and their employee's families. Who will support these people when they lose their jobs due to the lack of business. We have lost 2 staff members already. Who is going to look after us and pay for retraining, the CRD and Dr. Stanwick certainly will not. Who is going to look after the trickle down affected people at the suppliers level who will be laid off because the restaurants and legions etc. are buying less.

The CRD claims they are concerned about the health of the employees forced (?) to work in a smoke affected environment. I was never asked what we thought, what we thought our choices were, what our opinions are, did the CRD invite individual workers to the table and look them in the eye and say to them "I know what is best for you." If the CRD is truly concerned about my health, whay are they inducing a stress overload while I worry about whether I will make enough money from the customers I have left to provide for my family? Will Dr. Stanwick explain to my daughters why I have to take a second job and work 60 hours a week rather than spend time at home? Where is the CRD's resolution to prevent the cancer pollutants in the air from cars and busses and factories? I would suggest they are too timid to take on the big boys. I as a responsible adult have chosen to work in the restaurant business and I realise there is a trade off to be make and I accept that. These are the same judgements I make when I decide to eat food-sprayed with known toxins, I am trading off my desire for organic food versus food that has been treated for appearance and freshness sake.

Throughout Dr. Stanwick's campaign he has held up the town of San Louis Ebispo as an example of how well non smoking in public areas works. I ask Big Brother to cite the facts including the economic facts of a comparable Canadian city where this campaign has favourably worked out for everyone.

If what was demonstrated at the local watering hole in Esquimalt is to be the norm, how much is the policy of this overbearing law going to cost us, has the CRD factored in the cost and allocation of the limited police resource. Surely the police have better things to do than control adults.

Considering it is legal to smoke and if the logic and letter of the law of Dr. Stanwick is followed, it ik ok for you to smoke at home with your 18n month old baby inhaling second-hand smoke. The message seems to be it is alright to subject your child to second-hand smoke, because it's legal to smoke at home but not in front of strangers! The child in the example needs your protection Dr. Stanwick not the general populace.

I sincerely ask the CRD to relent and reconsider and let adults who are capable of making intelligent life choices make them.

I would sign the name of the restaurant where I work but I am worried about the possible ramifications that my voice of dissent wuld represent to the CRD. My family, income, co-workers, and customers who make the choice to attend a smoking environment are much too valuable and appreciated to wave such a red flag in front of the CRD.

Thank you for allowing my voice to be heard.

Sincerely yours,
Maria White

martlet
"flying without feet for 51 years"

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letters policy

the martlet has an open letters policy and will endevor to print everyt letter recieved from members of the university community, with priority to undergraduate students. letters must be typewritten, submitted on disk or by email and include your name and phone number for verification. Letters must be 200 words maximum. Letters will be reviewed for libel at the martlet editorial meeting on the week of publication, Deadline for letters is friday noon for publication date. Letters will be prioritized by order recieved. Letters with pseudonyms or group names will not be printed. Letters will not be edited for spelling or grammar, though may be edited for length.

contact information

the martet
po box 3035
university of victoria
victoria, bc v8w 3p3

room — sub b011
editors — 721-8361
newsroom 721-8360
production 721-8360
advertising — 721-8359
fax — 472-4556
martlet@uvic.ca
kafka.uvic.ca/~martlet

the martlet is an incorporated BC Society and a full member of Canadian University Press (CUP). Our Purpose is to act as an agent of constructive social change and we will not print racist, sexist, or homophobic copy.

martlet
"flying without feet for 51 years"

are you interested in helping with writing, photography, production or anything else? the summer is a great time to get started with the martlet
contact meesha, patti or christina at 721-8360 or stop by the office (sub b011) anytime.

summer schedule

june 24th, 1999 – meeting june 14th @ 7pm

july 22nd, 1999 – meeting july 12th @ 7pm

august 19th, 1999 – meeting august 9th @ 7pm

Bernin Bright

BY KÄTHE LEMON

Dan Bern lives in a world where he is the Messiah, Marilyn Monroe married Henry instead of Arthur Miller and Jesus goes to the mall. It is a world populated by every pop icon from Tiger Woods to Philip Glass to Charles Manson.

His songs deal with everything from the mundane (there are few songs simpler than Bern's "Dots") to the bizarre (in "Missing Link" Bern hypothesizes that "aliens came and fucked the monkey...how else explain Mozart?"). His work runs from funny, to quirky, to heart-wrenching, but it is always thought provoking and often controversial. The more you listen to Bern's songs the more you will discover there, but that doesn't take away from the instant appeal of a song like "Tiger Woods," known to most as "the big balls song."

Bern uses humour and music for social commentary, but many would say that the subjects he jokes about are far from funny.

However, Bern's fans are devoted, the kind of devotion that makes them follow him from show to show, to make sure they don't miss a single new song.

It seems like Bern sprung out of nowhere overnight, like some sort of fungus, but like all overnight successes, this one took many years to grow.

Bern left his home in Mount Vernon, Iowa in the mid-Eighties to go to Los Angeles and play his songs at open mike nights for money. It was there that he was "discovered" by Chuck Plotkin, a producer and engineer who had worked with Bruce Springsteen and Bob Dylan. But even then it was a long time before anyone really listened.

"In L.A. you can't completely ignore the business aspect of things, because that's basically what the town's about. I tried to make sure it was never my focus, because it's a sort of catch-22. If your focus is the money, then you lose on the music."

But the fans are definitely here for the music. During his concert the audience is mute. They sit or dance, transfixed, watching this man who looks like a younger, smarter Bruce Willis. They cheer when he tells them that he's just like "most American men," but they seem to believe him more when he sings, "I am the King of the World." He is like the musical Messiah bringing the gospel. No one speaks, they hardly even breath for fear of missing a word.

Some of them bring offerings. Bern's most recent album is titled Smartie Mine, which prompted fans at the Star Fish Room in Vancouver to leave boxes of Smarties all over the stage. One fan even brought a coconut.

"This guy brought a coconut to a show a while ago," said Bern, cradling it after the show, "now he comes to every show and brings tropical fruit. I don't know how he gets there."

Fans have had ample opportunity to follow Bern all over the continent. He's been living as a nomad, touring almost constantly since he recorded Dog Boy Van three years ago. However, since the release of Smartie Mine in September, Bern has been taking it easy, painting and writing instead of touring.

"Part of my stipulation in putting out Smartie Mine was I was not going to kill myself touring. I won't tour until I feel like it. I went for three years touring constantly. It was time to switch gears—find out who I am again and not be observed all the time. It's easier to experiment when you aren't being observed."

In that time Bern has been working on new songs and painting a mural on the walls of a room in the Carleton Arms Hotel in New York. But he's just about ready to come back out of seclusion. Bern has started with a light touring schedule to get him geared up for the summer festival circuit—and once again he will be playing the Vancouver Folk Fest.

"If you're embraced at the Vancouver Folk Festival, you're set," Bern said after the Star Fish Show, which was organized by the people at the Folk Fest, who are among his biggest fans.

It is Bern's strong fan-base that has propelled him to his status as a folk music cult hero. Most of his publicity has been from word of mouth or his extensive web site presence, almost all of which is maintained by fans instead of promoters. Part of the reason is rooted in the fact that Bern's music is not easy to categorize, and therefore not easy to sell.

He has been compared to Bob Dylan, Elvis Costello and Ani DiFranco, and in attempting to find his music a slot, one writer called it "topical-political-poetical-sarcastic-punk-pop-folk," what ever that means. The only thing that is clear with Bern is that listeners have to be ready to think quickly, because he's not slowing down to let people catch up.

Just when you think you've categorized a song, Bern shakes things up. For example, "Jerusalem" begins "When I tell you that I love you don't test my love/ Accept my love," a romantic, sweet love song? Don't count on it—Bern follows those lines with "Cause maybe I don't love you all that much."

Some of Bern's songs are outright funny, but others take a few minutes of thought and still others anger people. If suggesting to Charles Manson that he might have more chance of parole if he changed his name back to Krautmayer is on the edge, then the first lines of Hannibal: "let the niggers burn down nigger town," takes a flying leap off the cliff. Lines like that are enough to turn off many listeners. There are a lot of people who prefer songs they don't have to think about, songs where the context is obvious and they don't have to figure out if the line is sarcastic or not.

But Bern himself doesn't seem too concerned about those who don't understand his music.

"I tend to think that if I offend someone with my music, it's someone who needs to learn to laugh," Bern said.

Listen to all of Hannibal and you'll realize that it's a satire on the prejudice that some listeners think it promotes. In another verse Bern sings, "Hitler never hurt a soul/ I read it in a book that I finished up just this morning/ I was happy and I couldn't wait to tell the good news/ To all of my dead uncles." But some listeners don't want to wait that long to figure out what a song is about. However, Bern continues to believe in the power of his lyrics and refuses to dumb them down. As he says in his song "Hiroshima": "Words have meaning/ Words become things/ And words become actions."

And with Bern, there are lots of words. Since his demo CD Boy Dog Van began circulating in 1996, Bern has recorded three full-length albums, including the double-CD Smartie Mine. The lyrics to over 145 of his songs, both recorded and unrecorded are available on the internet. Since Smartie Mine was released, Bern says he's written more than 70 songs.

"Everybody has different strengths and weaknesses," Bern said. "One of mine is that I write a lot of songs, but that's also a weakness. I have more songs that no one's ever heard than anybody else. It's a different way of operating."

However, sometimes it seems that Bern sacrifices quality for quantity of material. On stage and on tour, Bern is raw energy. But his songs seem to suffer from this need to be constantly on the move. His songs are often repetitious, unrefined and unedited, but some would argue that therein lies their beauty.

"They come out whole," Bern said. "I play them a bit different every time, but I can't sit them down and revise them."

Of all of the albums, the independently released Smartie Mine would benefit the most from serious revision. The CD contains 27 songs, few of which are among Bern's hits. The second disk in particular, gives examples of songs that Bern should have either reworked or kept to himself. The songs "Beautiful Trees" and "Murderer" for example, are lyrically confusing and repetitive. But Bern defends the rawness of his work, saying that revision would destroy their spontaneity.

"They come out as a burst of something. It's like those moments when you just laugh and your mind goes somewhere else and you're just laughing. You can't stop and say 'let's look at that laugh and revise it.'"

Bern's stories are where his lack of editing shows up the most. His chapbook Ted the Cow, available at shows or over the internet, is a collection of stories only a mother, or a hard-core fan, could love.

The stories were written at the same time as Smartie Mine in the winter of 1998. "You don't decide to do these things," said Bern, "you just do them. Martha [Wainwright] inspired Ted the Cow because I liked reading them to her and she liked listening to them and sometimes that's enough." While that may be true of the creative process, it is certainly not true of the commercial process.

But that fits with Bern's general message that life should be enjoyed as it comes and we should stop trying to control everything and make it a commercial venture.

"I'm not trying to prove anything. I'm just trying to tell stories and paint pictures," Bern said. "If you throw something out into the world, something'll come back to you. I don't think I'm doing anything all that special. When you take a deep breath and let things out, the universe starts taking care of you."

And the winners are...

BY CRAIG BATTLE

All's well that ends well for a pair of Vikes' swimmers following UVic's annual athletic awards dinner.

After an up-and-down year, Christin Petelski and Phil Weiss were named UVic co-athletes of the year, along with rower Buffy Alexander. All three have received the award before, with Petelski winning in 1997, and Weiss and Alexander sharing the honours in 1998.

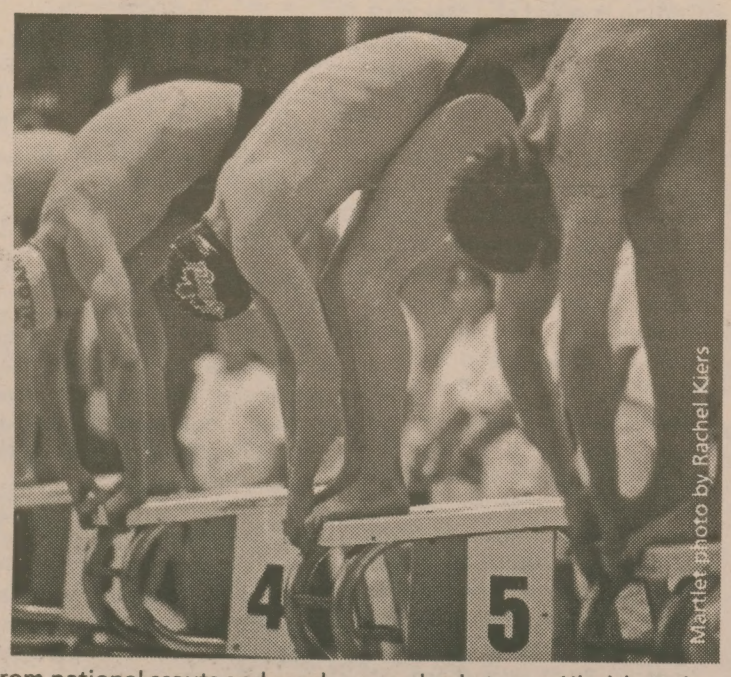
Both Petelski and Weiss won gold medals at this season's CIAU nationals, and competed in last summer's Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, but both had definite low points this year.

The day before the national team left for Malaysia last summer, Weiss injured his shoulder for the second time in his career. This hindered his performance at the games, keeping him from a shot at the podium. He re-injured the shoulder again this year, two weeks before the nationals. Despite losing a week's training, Weiss still grabbed the gold in the 200-metre butterfly, and went on to earn a place on the national roster.

Petelski had a great season leading up to the Spring Nationals where she was a near lock for another spot on Team Canada this coming summer. But, Petelski fell victim to a judge who disqualified her from the 100 breaststroke finals for what he labelled an illegal kick, even though it complied with international standards. As a result, she swam tentatively in her next final and missed her window.

Still, while Weiss will be in Winnipeg for the Pan-American Games, Petelski will be competing at meets in the U.S., waiting for her second opportunity to make the national squad at the Summer National try-outs in Toronto during the first week in August.

Facing fewer obstacles, Alexander has earned much recognition from UVic as well as



Martlet photo by Rachel Kiers

from national scouts and coaches. Once again, she made the Canadian Eight national squad, after leading her UVic crew to yet another University Championship this past season.

Several other athletes were honoured at the awards dinner, including women's soccer's Jeanette Haas–a three-time Academic All-Canadian and a first-team CIAU All-Canadian–picked up the President's Cup, awarded to a fourth or fifth-year student/athlete who best combines scholastic achievement and athletic ability. The fifth-year midfielder trains with the Canadian national team, and helped the Vikes make their first appearance in the national title match.

Middle distance runner Bruno Mazzotta received the Robert T. Wallace shield as the outstanding student-athlete in the first year of competition in intercollegiate sports. Mazzotta earlier won the Canada West and CIAU rookie-of-the-year honours, and was chosen for the national junior team.

Fifth-year basketball headliner Eric Hinrichsen and middle distance runner Barbara Brych shared the University Sport Award, given for outstanding performance in the present academic term. Hinrichsen is a three-time All-Canadian, who won CIAU player-of-the-year this season. Brych provided no small boost for her women's cross-country team, earning medals at both the Canada West and CIAU Championships. Brych helped propel the team to UVic's only accredited national championship of the year.

Other honourees included women's soccer goalie Megan Olesky, who won the Provost Award for a returning student-athlete who best combines athletic and scholastic excellence; Wendy Cocksedge, who captured the Chancellor's Award for outstanding contribution to her middle distance team both on and off the track; and rower Mike Grace, who won the Martlet award for outstanding contribution to the athletic program in areas of service, participation, administration and community involvement.

Christy Graham of the women's basketball team and Sheana Laing of women's rugby shared the outstanding manager award, and Jack Green received the Publisher's Award/Community Contributor Award for outstanding voluntary contribution to a varsity program.

Riders reach for the skies

BY CRAIG BATTLE

Ever feel like climbing Mount Douglas on a bike? If so, do you want to?

The inaugural Mount Doug Hill Climb on Friday, May 28 will take riders straight up the mountain's 1500 metres to produce the fun of a thrill that might make the Mountain Dew Dudes queasy.

"It's a five to seven-minute ride of brute strength," said PacificSport National Cycling Centre Assistant Coach Steve Lund. "Hill climbing is what gives our riders the power to do well in other events."

"A good climber at Mount Tolmie may take a lead there, but lose it at Bastion Square where skill, tactics and team strength will be a big factor."

Race organizers and followers praise the Pacific Classic as an important event for both developing and experienced riders. Winning the race is a matter of pride for national team member participants and a chance to shine for up-and-comers.

"Winning this race is important for developing riders as it is part of the BC Cup talent identification program," Lund

Winning the race is a matter of pride for national team members and a chance to shine for up-and-comers.

Sharon White, race media liaison, said her car coughs when it makes the trip, but says isn't a challenge that should intimidate the novice racer or recreational rider.

"Just take a few practise runs in the weeks before the race and enjoy the view when you reach the top," she said.

The event joins the HSBC Mount Tolmie Road Race and the ReMax Bastion Square Cycling Grand Prix as part of Pacific Cycling '99–the Victoria International Cycling Festival and BC's answer to the Tour de France.

The Mount Tolmie and Bastion Square take place the on the Saturday and Sunday following the Hill Climb to create a multi-day format with diverse challenges.

"The stage race format makes for interesting racing because it levels out the strengths of different riders," said Lister Farrar, race co-chair. said. "A rider who can win here is definitely a prospect for the national development team. However, the current national team members will not let them do it easily."

Race leaders will wear a special jersey so the riders and spectators know who to watch.

One such race leader will be local-based national team member and World Cup of Mountain Biking leader Alison Sydor.

"This is one of the few chances the national team riders based here in Victoria get to race in front of their friends and family. This matters to them."

The Hill Climb runs from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Friday, and Saturday and Sunday's races start at 8:00 a.m. and run all day.

For more information, call 360-BIKE.

One hundred years of sneaked smokes and owls on Mount Doug

New to the Martlet is an Activity & Adventure Section. We're looking for articles about parks, hikes, camping & kayaking trips & other adventures. Contact the Martlet & share your ideas. Photos & maps appreciated.

BY J. WEIRMIER

Amazing things can happen to you up on Mount Doug. Or down on Mount Doug beach. Or while on Mount Doug's trails. Or while doing all three.

Mount Douglas is where my uncle used to smoke stolen cigarettes with his pals when he was young. When they were teenagers they gathered together once a year with their decked out cars and raced down Churchill Road. The early sixties was a time when playing chicken with racing cars was every young man's right of passage. My mother tasted the sweetness of her first kiss up on Mount Doug. She won't go into the details of it, and I believe some secrets should exist between mother and daughter. However, I imagine the sun was setting, Victoria's lights were in full, romantic view and every possible condition was perfect.

When I was a little girl, my Grandpa convinced me that Mount Doug was the last natural habitat for the very elusive flying elephant. I used to spend entire walks with my neck craned back hoping to catch a glimpse of one perched up on a Douglas Fir branch. I gave up the search some time last year–too many gnarly roots on the paths to trip over.

Suffice it to say, my family's history is intimately linked to Mount Douglas Park. I have a few secrets about it that I will share. But first I'll give a brief historical synopsis which I have taken from Ursula Jupp's From Cordwood to Campus in Gordon Head.

Mount Doug officially became public land in 1858 when Governor Douglas set it aside for military and recreational purposes. Within a few short years, its recreational value outweighed any intended military usage. Victorians regularly journeyed out to Mount Doug for special picnics and holidays (despite the full day's travel involved). The Sidney Railway's Royal Oak Station provided a much appreciated two-mile walk to the mountain in 1902. During the depression, unemployed men were housed in huts and paid to make improvements to the park. Churchill Road and Majestic Park were only two of the larger projects undertaken by them. After the depression, the huts were transformed into stop-over hostels for young men and women cycling Canada in the early '40s.

There are many cool things to do in Mount Douglas Park. If you are a hiker or jogger, its countless trails will more than satisfy. It takes me approximately an hour to circumnavigate the base of the mountain.

My favourite part of the park's trail system is on the northern side. It's not official park property, but the owners of the land don't mind respectful use of its trails. I have had some of my most transcendental experiences on this quieter side of the park. The time my dog Duchess and I came face to face with a huge owl is a perfect example. The owl was perched on a fallen log beside the trail. Its head spun around and my eyes locked with its black ones. The owl looked at me for a few seconds, spread its wings and lifted itself up into the trees with silent power.

Every summer you will find a huge–and little known–blackberry patch in the field along the western perimeter of the park. Once again, it's off park property, but if you're respectful you can have quite a berry feast. After picking berries, you'll find that the beach is a perfect place to take yourself or someone special. Quiet summer evenings, before the sun sets, are ideal for listening to seals splashing in the water off-shore. To add to the evening, get a permit and you can enjoy bonfires on the beach. What's better than hanging out with friends on the beach with a fire burning and marshmallows toasting?

If you find yourself with some free time this summer, Mount Doug is a great place to go. Get out there and find yourself some flying elephants.

Mount Doug can be reached by following Shelbourne north or Blenkinsop east.

billboards

on-campus

Heart of the Earth, Heart of the Sky: Teachings of the Living Maya a lecture by PhD student Robin June Hood. May 20 4pm, Clearihue A 311.

John Blair: Landscape Designer exhibit at McPherson Library Gallery. May 4th to June 17th. Call 250-721-8298 for more information.

"Growing Together" Canadian Down's Syndrome Society's National Conference May 20-22 at UVic. registration and information: 721-2916 or http://home.ican.net/~cdss/growindex/html

Check Your Booty Holistic health conference May 22-23 at UVic. Registration and information available from 479-0137 or www.avi.org/booty

Women's Lives, Women's Work Culture and Development in the Pacific. a one-day workshop sponsored by the Center for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI), University of Victoria, and the South Pacific Peoples Foundation. May 28, 9am, UVic Centre Senate Chambers. Students $15, non-student $20 (includes coffee & lunch). Registration and further information, please contact Stella Chan (CAPI) 721-7020, fax: 721-3107, capi@uvic.ca or Gloria Williams (SPPF) 388-7400, gowilliams@home.com

off-campus

Meditation Workshop, May 28 7pm, Experience inner peace through meditation. Welcome to the free informational talk on the awakening of the soul through meditation of the inner Light and Sound. This talk will be followed by practical instruction in the meditation for those who are sincerely interested. Free and open to the public. YM-YWCA, Room C.

Internationally renowned psychiatrist, DR. WILLIAM GLASSER will present the latest ideas from his new book, CHOICE THEORY at the Harbour Towers Hotel, 345 Quebec St., Victoria, on Fri. 21st May 1999 from 9am to 4pm. This seminar will be of interest to all those working to improve the quality of their relationships in schools, communities, workplaces and families. The seminar format will be: the introduction of Choice Theory and the helping/counselling process which is based on the theory of REALITY THERAPY and role-plays and modelling of the counselling process. You will take away ideas you can use immediately. The cost of the seminar is $90. To register or for more information call: Pamela Jeffery 604-543-9013

Local Markets
Saturday 10am-2pm: Moss Street at Sir James Douglas School (Moss & Fairfield). Local organic farmers, bakers, crafts, and clothing, music & community pride.
Sunday and Holiday Mondays 11am-4:30pm: Government Street between Fisgard and Pandora. Local downtown flavour, with craft vendors, locally-made clothing & bags, bread & baked goods, music & creativity in the downtown core.

Delicious Vegetarian Dinner: Saturday May 22 5-8pm at Ceder Hill Rec Centre 3220 Ceder Hill Rd. $7/adults, $5/child. Tickets available at the door, for more information call Nikolas 704-1130

BC Festival of the Arts-free workshops for musicians. "Funding your Music Projects, Getting Focused and Making a Great Application" May 25th, 12:30-2pm, David Lam Auditorium.

Check out the 1999 Garden City Scooter Run. Check out Vespas, Lambrettas & some interesting fashion statements. Rally highlights are the causeway invasion, bowling at Mayfair on Saturday and Sunday. Check it out-it's a Victoria tradition. Call 381-3965 for more details.

"The Big Connection, Keyboards, Music and Computers" May 28 1pm: beginners, 2:30pm: advanced. May 29 10am & 1pm: beginners, 11:30am & 2:30pm: advanced. Daves Keyboard Centre, 2020 Blanshard St. advanced registration required, call 383-5222

"Collision"–New Paintings by Shannon Pawliw, June 3-16, Gallery open Mon-Sat 10am-1:30pm, 2-5pm. Community Arts Council Gallery, 1001 Douglas

for sale

Perfect Student Car small 4 door, silver Spectrum Chev, Great on gas, no rust, well maintained PLUS a parts car ONLY $1695.00 OBO. call 250-746-1073 after 6pm, collect if neccessary.

Scooter for sale: Black Yamaha Riva, 1995. 6600 km. His name is Reggier, and he loves driving in the city. Recently worked on & runs great. Asking $650 o.b.o. Call Todd, 370-9902.

wanted

HELP! will barter rent or buy PYSC 300A Statistics and Data Analysis– very low socio-eco status, single parent, no loan. call 250-746-1073 after 6, collect if neccessary.

Writers, or people who want to try their hand at writing. We need people who are interested in news, arts, sports, outdoor adventure pieces or whatever is on your mind. Come to the next Martlet story assignment meeting, June 14 and check us out.

Looking for old, but useable Macs for word processing. If you have one just taking up space, give us a call. We can take it off your hands. Call Christina or Meesha, 721-8360

employment & volunteer

Recreation Integration Victoria, Volunteers needed to suport people with disabilities in a variety of leisure and recreation pursuits. If you are able to make a couple hours a week, please call: 477-6314.

hey you

kiya, the goddess of darkness, noticed the poster, and smirked with intense satisfaction. She loves the scooter invasion. She checked her wallet, and discovered the money was there for new lipstick.

To the asshole in Chilliwack who took out your sick, demented & fucked aggression on the sweet female pitbull, next time do it to yourself. I hope the SPCA does something similar to you.

mary, edmonton has you. you have edmonton. lalala.

reg, you devil.

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